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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

MATTHEW D. STRINGER
Serial No: 09/997,363
Filed: November 30, 2001
For: LOCKING AND SECURING DEVICE

Exr. A.C. Chin Shue
Art Unit: 3632
Conf. No. 3488

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JUL 24 2003
GROUP 3600

BOX RESPONSE
Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 21, 2003

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated May 23, 2003.

This Amendment is being filed in response to the newly cited references and to the new grounds of rejection first presented in the above referenced Office Action. This amendment places the application in condition for allowance, or alternatively, in better condition for appeal. Please amend the application as follows.